AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims is provided in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

1. (Currently amended) A method of initializing a first security module in a computer, the method comprising the acts of:

determining if the first security module is a controlling security module or a subordinate security module;

generating at least one key if the first security module is the controlling security module; and

receiving at least one key from ~~another~~ a second security module within the computer if the first security module is the subordinate security module.

2. (Currently amended) The method, as set forth in claim 1, comprising the act of initializing the first and second security modules in ~~a system~~ the computer so that the first security module has at least one common key with ~~another~~ the second security module.

3. (Currently amended) The method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first security or second security module comprises a trusted platform module (TPM).

4. (Currently amended) The method, as set forth in claim 1, comprising the act of measuring [[a]] the computer ~~system~~ once the at least one key is generated.

5. (Currently amended) The method, as set forth in claim 4, wherein the controlling security module measures the computer ~~system~~.

6. (Currently amended) The method, as set forth in claim 4, comprising the act of copying the measurement of the ~~system~~ computer into the subordinate security module.

7. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least one key comprises an endorsement key.

8. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least one key comprises a private key and a public key.

9. (Currently amended) The method, as set forth in claim 1, comprising the act of accessing a lock bit to determine if the first security module is the controlling security module or the subordinate security module.

10. (Currently amended) The method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein the lock bit is a setting within memory of the ~~system~~ computer.

11. (Currently amended) The method, as set forth in claim 10, comprising accessing the lock bit via a bus coupled to the first security module and the memory or via a bus and a input/output controller coupled between the first security module and the memory.

12. (Currently amended) The method, as set forth in claim 10, comprising the act of determining if the first security module in the system is initialized.

13. (Currently amended) A first security module in a computer, comprising:

a detector that is adapted to determine if the first security module is a controlling security module or a subordinate security module;

a key generator that generates a key for the first security module if the first security module is the controlling security module; and

a key receiver that receives the key from ~~another~~ a second security module within the computer if the first security module is the subordinate security module.

14. (Currently amended) The first security module set forth in claim 13, wherein the first security module comprises a trusted platform module ("TPM").

15. (Currently amended) The first security module set forth in claim 14, wherein the first security module is adapted to determine if the first security module has undergone TPM initialization.

16. (Currently amended) The first security module, as set forth in claim 14, wherein the key comprises an endorsement key.

17. (Currently amended) The first security module, as set forth in claim 14, wherein the key comprises a private key.

18. (Currently amended) The first security module set forth in claim 13, wherein the first security module is adapted to measure a computer ~~system~~ if the first security module is the controlling security module.

19. (Currently amended) The first security module set forth in claim 13, wherein the first security module is adapted to access a lock bit to determine if the first security module is the controlling security module or the subordinate security module.

20. (Currently amended) The first security module set forth in claim 19, comprising accessing the lock bit via a bus coupled to the first security module and [[the]] memory or via a bus and a input/output controller coupled between the first security module and the memory.

21. (Currently amended) A first security module in a computer, comprising:

means for determining if ~~another~~ the first security module is a controlling security module or a subordinate security module;

means for generating at least one key for the first ~~other~~ security module if the first ~~other~~ security module ~~modules~~ is the controlling security module; and

means for receiving at least one key from ~~the other~~ a second security module within the computer if the first security module is the subordinate security module.

22. (Currently amended) The security module as set forth in claim 21, wherein the controlling security module is adapted to measure a computer ~~system~~.

23. (Currently amended) A computer ~~system~~, comprising:

a processor;

~~a hard disk operatively coupled to the processor and configured to store data for the processor;~~

[[a]] memory operatively coupled to the processor ~~and configured to store data retrieved from the hard disk for use by the processor~~;

~~a video controller operatively coupled to the processor and configured to produce a display signal;~~

a first security module and a second security module, each operatively coupled to the processor and the memory, the first and second security modules being configured to:

determine whether the first security module or the second security module is a controlling security module or a subordinate security module;

generate at least one key for the first security module or the second security module depending on whether the first security module or the second security module is the controlling security module; and

receiving at least one key from the first security module or the second security module depending on whether the first security module or the second security module is the subordinate security module.

24. (Currently amended) The computer ~~system~~ set forth in claim 23, wherein the first security module and the second security module each comprise a trusted platform module ("TPM").

25. (Currently amended) The computer ~~system~~ set forth in claim 24, wherein the at least one key comprises an endorsement key.

26. (Currently amended) The computer ~~system~~ set forth in claim 24, wherein the at least one key comprises a private key and a public key.

27. (Currently amended) The computer ~~system~~ set forth in claim 23, wherein the first security module and the second security module are each adapted to determine if [[that]] the first security module has undergone TPM initialization and if the second security module has undergone TPM initialization.

28. (Currently amended) The computer ~~system~~ set forth in claim 23, wherein the controlling security module is adapted to measure a computer ~~system~~.

29. (Currently amended) The computer ~~system~~ set forth in claim 23, wherein the first security module and the second security module are adapted to access a lock bit to determine if ~~that~~ the first security module is the controlling security module or the subordinate security module and to determine if the second security module is the controlling security module or the subordinate security module.

30. (Currently amended) The computer ~~system~~ set forth in claim 23, wherein the memory and the first security module are connected together on a bus and communicate through a bridge with the processor.

31. (Currently amended) A method of initializing a plurality of security modules in a computer ~~system~~, the method comprising the act of:

initializing each of the plurality of security modules so that each of the plurality of security modules has at least one common key.

32. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 31, wherein each of the plurality of security modules comprises a trusted platform module ("TPM").

33. (Currently amended) The method, as set forth in claim 31, comprising accessing a lock bit in [[a]] memory by each of the plurality of security modules if the security module has not been initialized.

34. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 33, wherein at least one of the plurality of security modules is coupled to a bus that connects to the memory.

35. (Currently amended) The method, as set forth in claim 31, comprising booting the computer ~~system~~ once the plurality of security modules is initialized.

36. (Currently amended) A networked computer system comprising:

a plurality of ~~computer systems~~ computers;

a network coupled to each of the plurality of ~~computer systems~~ computers;

at least one of the plurality of ~~computer systems~~ computers comprising:

a first security module and a second security module being configured to:

determine whether the first security module or the second security module is a controlling security module or a subordinate security module;

generate at least one key for the first security module or the second security module depending on whether the first security module or the second security module is the controlling security module; and

receiving at least one key from the first security module or the second security module depending on whether the first security module or the second security module is the subordinate security module.

37. (Original) The system, as set forth in claim 36, wherein the first and the second security modules comprise a trusted platform module ("TPM").

38. (New) The computer set forth in claim 23, comprising non-volatile memory operatively coupled to the processor and configured to store data for the processor, wherein the memory is configured to store data retrieved from the non-volatile memory for use by the processor.

39. (New) The computer set forth in claim 23, comprising a video controller operatively coupled to the processor and configured to produce a display signal.